



"This quilt was the final project of a Beyond the Frame class. We went to the old Textile Museum and saw a quilting exhibit called "Blue". We came back to St. Mark's and each participant made a quilt patch: Lil Taylor, Meg Donnelly, Linda Ewald, Eleanor Whitman, Raiford Gaffney, Penny Farley (leader) and Martha Connor-Donnelly."

—Martha Connor-Donnelly



St. Mark's Episcopal Church † 301 A St. SE † Washington, DC 20003

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Welcome to St. Mark's Christian Education Program 2023–2024

Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. Renew.

St. Mark's Christian Education program enters a new year offering numerous opportunities for parishioners to explore their personal and spiritual growth.

The 2023-24 program year will mark the first year that our St. Mark's Sunday School program will be administered under St. Mark's Youth and Family Ministries (YFM) program rather than under the Christian Ed program. Going forward, our Christian Ed focus will be on classes for adult parishioners building on a long tradition of rich offerings to the parish. Sunday School information can be found on the St. Mark's website or by contacting Caleb Nelson Amaker, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

Message from Your Christian Education Director

Greg Niblett and Annabelle Swift

The outgoing co-directors, Keith Krueger and Karen Falk, were instrumental in working with Greg Niblett to create a catalog of offerings that will cater to the theme of ***Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. and Renew.***

- Some of our classes will be physically gathering in our beloved St. Mark's church building – a **return** that parallels the re-launch of many church activities in our Nave, Parish Hall, and various meeting rooms. However, virtual platforms like Zoom will continue to allow us to expand our offerings beyond physically meeting.
- As always in the past, our Christian Education program will provide instruction, guidance, and discussion that fosters an opportunity to **reexamine** our lives in the context of the wider world, our individual and collective spiritual growth, and this year, in particular, the impact of the COVID-19 experience on our lives.
- Most importantly, whether in person or virtually we will **reconnect** to be nourished by other community members, either through stimulating discourse or just the simple act of a hug or elbow bump.
- And, as we move through the year, whether gathering together on Sundays or throughout the week in classes, we feel confident that each of us will have our spirits **renewed** and be empowered to live lives of meaning in a world that is hungry for kindness and the values Saint Mark's espouses.

For adults, we provide a rich range of classes that encourage belonging in our parish, from Baptism classes for parents, to Bible and Religious Studies, Experiential Courses (we explore the larger questions of existence, share our stories and look for connections between life issues and the Christian story), book-centered classes, Buddhist Meditation, and classes that encourage bonding. If you are new to St. Marks and curious about what our church has to offer, consider taking one or more classes developed and offered especially for newcomers and new members. Are you wondering

about what it would be like to become part of this strong faith community, but not sure how to explore belonging? And whether you are new or have been here for decades, perhaps you are interested in meeting others in person or over Zoom while looking together at what really matters in our lives. Or seeking a smaller community within the larger parish. If any of this sounds intriguing, we urge you to sign- up for our Christian Education classes. Through sharing experiences and listening thoughtfully to one another's stories we often find our way to belonging.

With my personal thanks to Keith and Karen for their service these last two years and for their help in setting up our offerings for next year, I hope you will find something in this catalog that draws your interest, calls you or your family toward further spiritual growth, and brings you into closer relationship with a community that supports you in leading more thoughtful and meaningful lives.

Greg and Annabelle

Mission Statements

Christian Education at St. Mark’s Church provides classes and other programs that enable people to be sustained in their search for meaning, encounter God at one’s deepest level, be strengthened by the symbols of the Christian faith, and have a sense of belonging in this community.

Christian Education Mission

Christian Education at St. Mark’s is a lay-led, volunteer system that provides classes and other programs that enable people to be sustained in their search for meaning, encounter God at one’s deepest level, be strengthened by the symbols of the Christian faith, and have a sense of belonging in this community.

St. Mark’s Mission Statement

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are in the faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and care for others with love, justice and compassion.

Program Support Liaisons	
Nursery Manager	Deborah Cunningham
Treasurer	TBD
Vestry Liaison	TBD
Supplies	Edna Boone

Belonging In Community at St. Mark's Church

The Belonging Class

Everyone brings a story with them when they walk into the nave. From past religious experiences, one may wish to leave behind to traditions that sustain one, no two parishioners are the same. Are you joining St. Mark's, rejoining, or seeking reconnection? Wherever you are on your journey, we invite you to exchange stories and explore what belonging means in 2023. Do you feel more connected to your neighbors, friends, and community than before the pandemic or less? Which elements of your faith sustain you, and which have been tested? How do we, as a community, support and sustain all the parts which make us whole?

A sense of belonging – of knowing that you are a part of another's life or the life of a group important to you – is one of our basic human needs. This is especially true following the extraordinary events of the past three years. In the Belonging class, we will look at both birth and chosen belongings, as well as ways in which each of us is facing the joys and challenges of renewing our connections.

Over five weeks and a one-day, in-town weekend retreat, we will invite you to talk about and reflect on real-world experiences and to examine the tensions in everyday life. We will explore how these dilemmas bedevil us but, more importantly, how they inform who we are and what we share as a community. We will have an opportunity to share our spiritual journeys and consider how our stories are reflected in the Christian story. Participants will also be introduced to the fullness of our parish life and to explore ways you might more deeply engage.

This class is especially designed for newcomers as you consider St. Mark's as your church home. Knowing a core set of parishioners with whom you've shared deep understanding can provide a common ground on which you can sense that profound belonging we all desire. Your connection to fellow participants in the Belonging class will become your touchstone within the larger St. Mark's community. We also invite veteran parishioners to join us as well.

Winter Season

Dates: January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27 with one-day retreat TBA

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Leaders: Lay Leaders: Charlie Rupp and TBD; Clergy attending.

Location: Sunday School rooms in undercroft

*For more information, contact Charlie Rupp at crupp@ix.netcom.com with "Belonging Class" in the subject line, or sign up in the Foyer. **Babysitting will be available on request.***

Adult Bible & Religious Classes

Episcopalians 101 (A foundational course)

*Why do some people make the sign of the cross?
Who chooses the music?
What is the Book of Common Prayer?
Who the heck is the Bishop someone mentions?
Do all Episcopal churches have an altar in the center?*

If you want to know what it means to be an Episcopalian, consider joining us! We convene this class several times a year in two Sunday sessions. Please note we require three people to sign up beforehand for the class to be taught.

Fall Classes 2023

*Date: Sunday, October 15 and 22, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Leader: Clergy
Location: Dozier Library*

Winter 2024

*Date: Sunday, January 21 and 28, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Leader: Clergy
Location: Dossier Library*

Spring 2024

*Date: Sunday, April 7 and 14, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Leader: Clergy
Location: Dossier Library*

Summer 2024

*Date: Sunday, June 2 and 9, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Leader: Clergy
Location: Dossier Library*

For more Information, please email Michele Morgan at Michael Gravlee at parishadmin@stmarks.net with "Subscribe to Episcopalians 101" in the subject line.

Wednesday Bible Class

The Wednesday Bible Class focuses on biblical literacy. Our study this year continues the exploration of “context” as key to our understanding the writings in The New Testament (NT). We will start with a brief review of last year’s study. Then, expanding our perspective of “context”, we will approach New Testament writings in their first and second-century contexts. For ex: Can we make sense of the fact that the words “Christian” and “Christianity” appear only three times in The NT? And never in the Four Gospels?

We use commentary, the reading and interpretation of text, questions, discussion, more questions, and ultimately we ask ourselves: “What does our learning mean for our lives now?” We learn collaboratively and respectfully. There is no assigned homework...but, you never know, you might get interested... New members are welcome and appreciated.

This year we are meeting both in-person and Zoom.

Dates: Wednesdays, September 6, 2023 – May 22, 2024

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Leaders: Peter Mosley (Leader); Raiford Gaffney (Administrator)

Location: ZOOM and In-person in the Rector’s Room

To join the class, click on the Bible Class icon at <http://stmarks.net/bibleclass/>.

For more information and zoom link, email Raiford Gaffney at rgaffneydc@gmail.com.

Baptism Course for Parents

This course is designed for parents who wish to present their child for baptism. The course is a facilitated discussion for parents to explore issues that are posed by the Liturgy of Baptism, and an introduction to the resources and opportunities found in St. Mark’s Youth and Family Ministry. (Adult candidates for baptism are invited to contact the church office to meet with clergy.) The course consists of two one-hour sessions; a third session is usually scheduled as a make-up date.

The Baptism course is typically offered in the fall and in the spring. Prior to taking the course, parents should meet with the clergy and schedule a baptism date; any of the three services are available most Sundays. They also complete a form for the church office, which then inserts the name of the child in the service bulletin for that date.

Fall Baptism

Dates: Tuesdays, October 3 and 17 on zoom, with an optional in-person meeting at church on Sunday, October 29. Dates flexible based on family needs.

Time: TBA

Leaders: John Edwards, Kate McFadden, and Steve Dalzell

Location: Either in-person at the church or by Zoom

If you are interested in taking this course, please send an email to Steve Dalzell at dalzellsr@gmail.com with “Subscribe to The Baptism Class for Parents” in the subject line.

Spring Baptism

Dates: TBA. Flexible based on family needs.
Time: TBA
Leaders: John Edwards, Kate McFadden, and Steve Dalzell
Location: Either in-person at the church or by Zoom – TBA

If you are interested in taking this course, please send an email to Steve Dalzell at dalzellsr@gmail.com with "Subscribe to The Baptism Class for Parents" in the subject line.

Note: Dates for both Fall and Spring courses are subject to change based on numbers of individuals interested in Baptism and the timing of their availability.

Wrestling with the Angel

Want to explore spirituality, faith, philosophy, and ethics more deeply? Join clergy for a critical and constructive discussion of central themes of human life as witnessed in Scripture. We will read selected passages together and then discuss how to apply what we've read to deepen our spiritual practices, hone our ethics, and address the mystery at the center of our lives.

Topics: September 13, *Welcoming the Stranger*; October 11, *God, suffering, and hope*; November 8, *Why do Prayers go unanswered?* January 10, *Who has the final word?* February 7th, TBA; March 13, *God's Kingdom/ God's Kin-dom*; April 10, *Freedom from Fear*.

Dates: Third Wednesday of the month (September – April); no class in December; 1st Wednesday of the month in February.
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Leader: Michele@stmarks.net
Location: ZOOM: Please email Michael Gravely at parishadmin@stmarks.net for link.

The *Meaning* and *Making* of Community: What is it, where is it, and why do we need It?

In October 2022, we led a Workshop titled "Return, Reexamine, Reconnect, Renew: An Experiential Dialogue for the St. Mark's Community". We invite those of you who attended last year to continue our dialogue AND extend the invitation to all of our Parishioners who value our connectedness and want to participate in an effort to explore where we go from here. In building on our dialogue regarding our place at St. Mark's, and the world, it is quite natural to discuss our ideas and beliefs regarding affirming the importance of continuity and connection with one another. Please join us as we continue our journey together with open hearts.

Date: February 3, 2024
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Baxter Hall
Leader: Don Lipscomb, Rita Ossolinski and Bill Jordan
Location: Baxter Hall

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email Rita at rossolinski@yahoo.com or Don at DLipscomb@delstudioarchitects.com or with "Community" in the subject line. You may also sign up in the Foyer. Babysitting will be available on request.

Adult Classes for Personal & Spiritual Growth

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to connect with the spark of divinity that resides in us. As the late Fr. Thomas Keating, one of the founders of Centering Prayer, said, "God's presence within us is closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Centering prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship."

And that's what we do: We sit in the comfort of our homes; we close our eyes and remain in silence for 20 minutes. We open our hearts to the presence of God in humility, with no expectations – letting our thoughts come and go without judgment. We let kindness and generosity of spirit flow freely from our hearts into the world. We remember Jesus' words when he spoke to the crowds in the Sermon on the Mount, "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Mt. 6:6-7)

Before the silence we read passages from a book and after the silence, we share experiences and reflect on a wide range of spiritual and theological matters. Everyone can do centering prayer; all you need is the deep desire to connect with your still small voice within. Our group is eclectic: we have people from St. Mark's but also some who profess other faiths; we have younger folks and older folks; we have locals and we have participants from various parts of the country, like Nevada, Florida, Missouri, and North and South Carolina. That's the beauty of zoom!

<i>Dates:</i>	<i>Almost daily</i>
<i>Time:</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Patricia Catalano</i>
<i>Location:</i>	<i>Zoom</i>

If you are interested in participating in Centering Prayer, please send an email to Patricia at adjunct@stmarks.net with "Subscribe to Centering Prayer" in the subject line.

St. Mark's Meditation Center – Buddhism Meditation & Instruction

St. Mark's Meditation Center (SMMC) welcomes all newcomers, practiced in or new to meditation, Buddhism, or other contemplative traditions. Our goal is to create a peaceful, positive presence in the world, based on compassion, loving-kindness, and mindfulness. We are an open community, with everyone welcome to join us for meditation – for an evening, occasionally, or very often. Together, we cultivate awareness through mindfulness meditation; explore Buddhist and other contemplative teachings; and nurture skillful engagement with the world.

Monday nights generally begin with an introduction and 30 minutes of silent meditation, followed by a dharma talk and group discussion. The Sangha is peer-led by different members and occasionally

by special guests, who are invited to share their practice and insights with us.

Dates & Time: Mondays year-round, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Lead Contact: Michele Rivard

Location: Baxter Hall and Zoom

You can sign up for the Weekly Program E-Newsletter and Zoom link at: <https://bit.ly/3CoFfWf>.

Questions? Email MMRivard@hotmail.com.

20s/30s Fellowship

In your 20s or 30s at St. Mark's? Join us for lightly-guided discussions about life and faith once a month following the 5pm service! In the fall, we will be reading "This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us Us" by Cole Arthur Riley. The spring will feature a podcast - to be announced. We are also ramping up our social calendar and invite all 20s and 30s to join us for concerts, volunteering, or brunch once a month throughout the year.

Dates: Second or third Sunday of the month (schedule will be posted in the Foyer)

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm (following 5:00 Eucharist)

Leaders: Jilian McGreen and Annabelle Swift

Location: In-person (Dozier Library)

To be added to the email list and WhatsApp, send an email to Jilian at jmcg1213@gmail.com with "Join 20s/30s" in the subject line.

Economic Inequality Reading Group

You are invited to a reading group focused on economic inequality and its intersections with multiple aspects of lived experience in the current United States. The group offers an opportunity for thoughtful engagement and conversation centered on nine books by diverse authors. The authors approach education, health and health care, housing, gender and racial inequalities, sexuality, location, incarceration, and immigration status with a common theme of economic inequality. Selected from a variety of genres, including non-fiction, memoir, novels, and poetry, each book will guide a discussion of understanding with compassion and responding boldly to the suffering and injustices of structures of economic inequality. A list of the selected texts and dates is below.

All are welcome to join monthly or drop in and out as time and interest allows. No long term commitment required, but is encouraged. Please share the invitation with anyone interested in the conversation – a St. Mark's-affiliated person, a colleague, or friend.

Book Resources:

September 26: [Poverty. By America](#) by Matthew Desmond

October 24: [House of Sticks](#) by Ly Tran

November 28: [Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership](#) by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

December 19: [Salvage the Bones](#) by Jesmyn Ward

January 23: [Abundance](#) by Jakob Guanzon

February 27: [The Kissing Bug: A Nation's Neglect of a Deadly Disease](#) by Daisy Hernández

March 26: [*The Viral Underclass: The Human Toll When Inequality and Disease Collide*](#) by Steven W. Thrasher (paperback to be released Jan. 2, 2024)
April 23: [*Mercurochrome*](#) by Wanda Coleman; *I Know Your Kind* by William Brewer (two short poetry collections). <https://milkweed.org/book/i-know-your-kind>
May 21: [*There There*](#) by Tommy Orange

All books are or will be available in paperback, except the first text. All are available used or at the public library. East City Bookshop has stocked copies of each text if you wish to support a local women-owned bookshop.

Dates: September to May on the fourth Tuesday of the month
(except December and May which meet a week earlier to avoid holidays)
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Location: The Elders Room
Facilitator: Angie Cecil (angie.e.cecil@gmail.com)

Toys in the Attic: Letting Go

Just as we cling to ideas of who we are and are not, we cling to things. In this class, we will delve into literal and figurative aspects of letting go – of material possessions and circumstances that make us feel safe or content, or identify ourselves in certain ways. Conversation and short readings will draw from Swedish death cleaning (döstädning) and Buddhist teachings of non-attachment and impermanence, as we consider: How can we let go – of things, people, and ideas of self – and be more open to living with curiosity and generosity (and less clutter)?

Dates: Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18
Time: 7:00 – 8:15 pm
Leader: Michele Rivard
Location: Hybrid - Baxter Hall or Zoom

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email Michele at mmrivard@hotmail.com with "Letting Go" in the subject line. This class is limited to 15 people.

Why is Buddha/Buddhism So Cool?

Friends who are decidedly heathen have Buddha statues in their gardens, or inside their homes, for a bunch of reasons. The statues are serene. Buddha is non-judgmental. Buddhism calms in a hyper-active, distracted world. Buddhism – yoga – mindfulness – moments of zen. It all goes together. And it has since Jack Kerouac published *The Dharma Bums*.

Join us for this class as we look into a greater understanding of Buddhism and what Christians and non-Christian can learn from this faith tradition. Why might Buddhism and the Buddha be so appealing to Christians, non-Christians, and secularists alike? Christianity is a broad umbrella that encompasses both conservative and progressive ideals. How might you better understand your own belief system or Christian perspective through the lens of better understanding Buddhism. This will not be a class to look at theology or a comparison of Christian and Buddhist ideas of contemplation. Rather, we will discuss together the reputation of Buddhism in our culture. Class participants will be

provided with a few short suggested readings that might help us better understand why Buddhism is so appealing to the religious and non-religious.

Date: Sunday, October 8
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Leader: Elizabeth Becker
Location: Elders Room

If you are interested in this class, please, email Elizabeth at ehb47@msn.com with “Buddha” in the subject line. You can also sign up in the Foyer.

The Pipe Organ: Everything You’ve Wanted to Know

Join us for an in-depth look at the pipe organ, from its history and mechanics to technological changes and current trends. You'll get a full demonstration of St. Mark's Holtkamp organ and an explanation of how everything works. We'll delve into the history of the organ, supplemented by photos and recordings. We'll investigate the materials, construction, and inner workings of organs. You'll learn how to make sense of “stop lists” and the meaning and purpose of various stops. We'll explore the history of the organs at St. Mark's with particular attention to its current Holtkamp pipe organ. Can you imagine a fierce debate in 1990 about *where* in the nave to install the organ? We'll also compare organ and piano techniques, look at different kinds of organ music, and learn about the unique challenges of playing “The King of Instruments.”

Dates: October 9 and 16
Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Leader: Jeff Kempeskie
Location: Elder's Room

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email Jeff at jeff@stmarks.net, with “Pipe Organ” in the subject line. You may also sign up in the Foyer. This class will be available in-person and on zoom.

Stones: A Spiritual Journey Using Expressive Writing

In this class, we will use Expressive Writing to go on a spiritual journey together. Expressive writing is a method of writing that allows you to explore feelings and emotions that live in your deepest self. This method was developed and popularized by psychologists and therapists to encourage individuals to unearth what lies within and bring new material into consciousness. For this class, we will use stones as symbols to represent different aspects of our life journey. We will explore choosing and being chosen; your sense of how you were and are formed; facing brokenness; laying down your burden; making the common in our lives beautiful; etc.

For this class you will need:

- Yourself. Just as you are. This is a no-homework class, so you have nothing to prepare in advance or after the class, unless you wish to extend the work you do in class.
- A journal and pen/pencil.
- 10 stones you have collected of varying colors, types, and sizes. One is broken.
- String or leather cord to wrap one stone (2 feet is more than sufficient).
- Scissors.

- Fossils, pieces of wood, bamboo, or other found, natural materials that you can decorate your stones with – or, if you prefer, markers or paints to embellish at least one stone.

If you are interested in attending, please send a paragraph on why you want to take this class to susanlynnthompson@gmail.com. The class will be small so everyone has a chance to read what each has written (voluntarily, of course). Please plan on attending all classes, as the format is developmental. For one class, there may be a two-hour retreat in which you learn how to wrap stones using the New Zealand method.

Dates: November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 2023
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Leader: Susan Thompson
Location: Zoom

Me and My Kids: Growing Together – Growing Apart

For children, “growing up” can mean periods of building deep bonds. Yet, childhood and adolescence must also necessarily include periods of separation and experiences of loss. As parents, we too experience these seasons of togetherness and the more challenging times of disconnection as we raise our children. How do we approach each of these periods? What about our own upbringing, our values and our faith guides us and kindles our own growth? What causes us to stumble? Over the course of four consecutive Sunday mornings, we will explore how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go.

Dates: Sundays, January 21, 28, February 4, 11
Time: 10:00 am - 12 noon
Leader: Julie Murphey and TBA
Location: Library in the undercroft

Babysitting will be available on request. For more information, contact Julie Murphey at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com. You may also sign up in the Foyer.

Before I Go: Guidance for Planning Your Memorial Service

Leaving our affairs in order when we die is an enormous gift for our loved ones. One way St. Mark's can help you do some of this important work “before you go” is to offer time and guidance on planning your own memorial service. This four-session workshop will lead you through the process of choosing readings, prayers, and music, as well as whom you might ask to give a tribute and what sort of bio would suit you. Resources and examples will be available and shared with the class. Along with the nuts and bolts of putting together a memorial service, our time will include exploration, in community, of spiritual issues that arise as we face our mortality. Consider doing this work as a gift for your loved ones...before you go.

Dates: Saturdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Teachers: Josie and Bill Jordan
Location: Elder's Room

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email Josie at josiejordan52@gmail.com. You may also sign-up in the Foyer. This class is limited to 12 people.

Losses and New Beginnings

Inevitably, each of us will experience loss during our lives, whether a death of a loved one, an unexpected shift of gears in our careers, disappointments or even, sometimes, calamities that come unexpectedly. And yet each loss has the potential to leave us open a resurrection, a renewal that can launch us into a new chapter of life, new relationships, new careers, new applications, new interests. Join us as we seek to make sense of the past, recent losses and look at how we how new directions were able to spring from the ashes of despair. For some, this journey may be an opportunity to chart a new direction for the next stage of your life. We will explore the curiosity, hope, despair and ultimately the anticipation that comes with experiencing these chapters of our lives.

Dates: April 3 and 10, with a weekend retreat: April 5, 6, 7

Time: TBA

Leaders: Don Lipscomb and Louise Walsh

Location: Baxter Hall on April 3 and 10; Claggett Center weekend retreat April 5, 6, 7.

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email Don Lipscomb at DLipscomb@delstudioarchitects.com or Louise at ldwalsh@earthlink.net. You may also sign up in the Foyer.

An Exploration of Hymns

Curious about the origins of hymns? Perplexed by some of the notation within the hymnal? In this two-part course, we'll start off with a brief overview of the history of hymnody and how hymns are used within the liturgy. We'll look at what qualities define "good" hymns in terms of text and music. We'll delve more deeply into the background of a few specific hymns we frequently use, and you'll even get a chance to sing them. Jeff Kemske, Director of Music, will reveal the various considerations the organist must make when playing and leading hymns. He'll discuss the complexities and challenges of selecting hymns over the course of a year. The class will also compare different settings of the same text and different texts with the same music. We'll also examine the 1982 Hymnal and other hymnals, and we'll look ahead toward future trends in hymns.

Dates: April 15 and 22

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Leader: Jeff Kemske

Location: Elder's Room

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email Jeff at jeff@stmarks.net with "Hymns" in the subject line. You may also sign up in the Foyer. This class will be available in-person and zoom.

What if the Hokey Pokey is What It's All About?

There once was a bumper sticker (yes, a bumper sticker) that read, "What if the Hokey Pokey is what it's all about?" And it occasioned a thought: "Wow, could that really be it?" Life's meaning seems such a conundrum. It's a riddle that taxes our brains, a yearning that leaves us forever wanting. But what if the prompts and pathways are right in front of us? Can we see them? Can we embrace them? Come join us on this jaunty little journey – just two classes on either side of a weekend retreat – to explore if we can. And expect a little song and dance just for fun. It is the Hokey Pokey, after all.

Dates: Two Tuesdays, May 14 & 21; Retreat: May 17–19

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Leaders: Betsy Athey and Bruce Sherman

Location: Sunday School classrooms in the undercroft; Retreat: May 17–19 at DuPont Memorial House, Rehoboth Beach, DE

*If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, email **Betsy at atheylloyd@comcast.net**. You may also sign up in the Foyer.*

Exploring the Arts at St. Mark's *Beyond the Frame*

St. Mark's has a long history of engagement with the arts. The Arts Council is putting together a series of classes focused on the arts at St. Mark's, designed to carry this storied history into the present day. We invite anyone who is interested in the arts to engage in a conversation with an expert in a particular area to hear about our history, speak to the power of our own experiences, and look to the future of the Arts.

Photographing Your Artwork

Would you like to take better photographs of your artwork? Come to our 1-hour class and learn tricks used by professional art photographers.

Date: Late Pentecost, Sunday, October 22, 2023

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm (One session, after 11:15 service)

Leaders: Elin Whitney-Smith, Christoph Berendes

Requirements: 2-dimensional Art piece and cell phone

Location: Baxter Hall or Adams Room - TBA

If you are interested in joining this class, email Elin Whitney-Smith at elin@WatercolorDC.com. You may also sign up in the Foyer.

Epiphany Art Show

Our theme will be *Gift of the Simple Light*.

Curator & Contact: Elin Whitney-Smith (elin@WatercolorDC.com)

Submissions: December 13th 2023 to January 2nd 2024. Artists will be notified on January 4th.
Art drop off and show hung January 13th Reception January 14th

Exploring Movement and Spirituality in Liturgy

Beyond the Frame class in two parts – Museum visit followed by a workshop at St Mark's. There will be a morning museum visit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Mariam Ghani, Erin Ellen Kelly, *When the Spirits Moved Them, They Moved*, is a three-channel video, color, sound; 23:36 minutes. The museum video presentation is of dancers reimagining a 19th century Shaker spiritual gathering, in a restored Shaker meeting house in Kentucky. It is part of a larger exhibit *Musical Thinking: New Video Art and Sonic Strategies*.

We will meet at the museum at the main desk by the F Street entrance, view the exhibit, then return to St. Mark's for a brown bag lunch, discussion, and movement workshop.

Date and time: January 20th, 2024, 10:45 am at the American Art Museum
Brown Bag lunch, discussion, and workshop at St. Mark's, 2:30 pm

Leaders: Elin Whitney-Smith and J.R. Randall

Room: TBD

For more information and a link to the exhibit: <https://StMarks.net/SpiritMoving2024> OR
contact Elin Whitney-Smith elin@WatercolorDC.com or J.R.Randall at contactjr@gmail.com.

Icons for Today

There will be an icon retreat on Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning, February 16-19, 2024. Paint an Icon of St. Mark, designed for us by Tracy Councill, using egg tempera and gold leaf on a prepared board. Retreat format will include traditional iconographer's prayers, meals together, and social time. Materials must be special ordered from Europe, so early registration is required, with a \$20 deposit by September 30th. \$100 per person will cover supplies. Accommodations will include a private bed in a shared room. The cost of three nights of food and accommodations is estimated to be between \$75-125 per person.

Dates: Lent, February 16-19, 2024 – Extended Weekend away.

Leaders: Tracy Councill and Cher Stepanek

Location: Berkley Springs, West Virginia

Contact: A \$20 deposit is due by September 30th.

Contact Elin Whitney-Smith at elin@WatercolorDC.com

Pop-Up Classes for Adults

If you are a member of St. Mark's and want to teach a class that is not listed in this catalog, then consider proposing a Pop-Up class. Pop-Up classes are classes designed by St. Mark's parishioners that may be one-time meetings or may run for several weeks, a semester, or the full year. The originator of a Pop-Up class is responsible for obtaining the commitment of a leader or leaders for the class and presenting a short blurb to the Christian Education Directors for approval, Greg Niblett, greg.niblett@mtctrains.org and Annabelle Swift, annabelleswift31@gmail.com. Originators are responsible for recruiting class members and marketing the class through Sunday announcements at the podium or on the St. Mark's listserv.

*We look forward to seeing you in one of more of these classes,
to be a part of our continued growth and learning*

